

# California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

Sponsored by:

The California Department of Public Health,  
Immunization Branch,  
Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory and  
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program Enrollment Form

Check one: MD ☐ DO ☐ NP ☐ PA ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Specialty:

Check one: ☐ Pediatric ☐ Family Practice  
☐ Internal medicine ☐ Infectious Disease  
☐ OB/GYN ☐ Student Health  
☐ Urgent Care ☐ Emergency Medical  
☐ Other

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ State: CA

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please supply an email address as it is the primary  
communication method with sentinel providers.*

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to diagnostic testing for  
influenza? Yes ☐ No ☐

**Please complete the enrollment  
form and return to:**

CDPH  
Immunization Branch  
Attn: Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway  
Richmond, CA 94804  
Fax: (916) 440-5984

## California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

*California clinicians are a  
critical component  
of the state and national  
surveillance network for influenza.*

## Enroll now to volunteer for this influenza season!

### Questions?

Please contact Immunization Branch

Phone: (510) 620-3737

Email: [InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov)

For more information visit our website:

[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Pages/  
CaliforniaSentinelProviderProgram.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Pages/CaliforniaSentinelProviderProgram.aspx)



# We need your help to track influenza in California!

The California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program is a partnership between clinicians, local health departments (LHDs), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct surveillance for *influenza-like illness (ILI)*. The program contributes valuable epidemiological and virologic information to state, national, and global influenza surveillance activities.

## Why is surveillance for influenza important?

- Seasonal influenza is a significant cause of illness and death in California each year.
- Pandemic influenza is an unpredictable but inevitable threat.



- Routine surveillance for influenza improves our ability to monitor the circulation of influenza virus strains in the community.
- Surveillance aids with the detection of new subtypes and emerging strains of influenza viruses, an important element of preparedness for pandemic influenza.
- The data collected by Sentinel Providers assist CDPH and CDC with developing influenza prevention and control strategies and with selecting the virus strains to be included as

## Who is eligible to be a Sentinel Provider?

Sentinel providers may be physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants from any specialty.



## What are the responsibilities of a Sentinel Provider?

### Data Collection and Reporting

- Keep a record of the number of patient visits for influenza-like illness (categorized by age group) and the total number of patient visits for any reason.
- Report this influenza-like illness data weekly by internet or fax.

### Specimen Collection

- Collect nasal swabs or respiratory specimens from a subset of patients that meet the ILI case definition and submit them to the state laboratory for testing.
- All testing is performed at no cost to the provider. CDPH supplies the specimen collection materials and pays for shipping.



## What feedback and materials do Sentinel Providers receive?

- **Individual test results** for specimens submitted to the state laboratory.
- **Rapid Antigen Test Kits** (Influenza A and B) are offered to qualified providers to facilitate on-site diagnostic testing.
- **Weekly updates** of state and national influenza activity.

